

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6795

BILL NUMBER: SB 428

DATE PREPARED: Dec 26, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments.

FISCAL ANALYST: Bob Sigalow

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments for the area consisting of Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County. It provides that the council consists of one person appointed by the executive of each municipality in a participating county, one person appointed by the executive of each participating county, and one person appointed by the governor. The bill provides that the vote of each member of the council is weighted according to the population of the area represented by the member, and it specifies the powers of the council.

This bill requires the council to prepare and adopt an annual budget for its operation that is apportioned to each participating county on a pro rata per capita basis. The bill provides that any amount of the adopted budget that exceeds an amount equal to \$0.70 per capita for each participating county is subject to review by the county fiscal body in the usual manner of budget review.

The bill also repeals the law governing a regional plan commission in Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County and provides that the regional plan commission becomes the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments on July 1, 2002.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The responsibilities and authority of the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments established under this bill are basically the same as they are for the regional planning commission. The budgeting process and tax levy apportionment and tax rate limitations are also the same. The membership of the Council is slightly different under the bill, as is the way that votes are weighted.

Under current law, the plan commission is comprised of one member from each county executive and each county fiscal body, each county surveyor, one member from each of the eight largest municipalities with populations under 50,000 in LaPorte and Porter Counties, one member from each city with a population under 50,000 in Lake County, and one member each from the five largest population towns in Lake County.

Under the proposal, the new Council would be comprised of one member from each county executive and one member from each municipality in the participating counties. Additionally, the Governor would appoint one non-voting member. A member's voting allocation would be based on the population that the member represents. For this purpose, the members appointed by the counties represent the unincorporated portion of their respective counties.

There would be five additional members on the new Council. Members would not be paid a per diem, but would be reimbursed for expenses. There could be a minimal increase in local expenses for the additional members.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties and all municipalities within those counties.

Information Sources: